States	Number of Coal-Blocks
West Bengal	45
Orissa	53
Chhattisgarh	81
Madhya Pradesh	78
Maharashtra	84
Andhra Pradesh	20
Jharkhand	178
TOTAL:	539

(c) The total estimated coal reserves in the country is 247.85 billion tonnes. Out of these, 92.96 billion tonnes are in proved category, 117.09 billion tonnes in indicated category and 37.80 billion tonnes in inferred category.

(d) The total estimated coal reserves at Jharkhand is 72.20 billion tonnes. Out of these, 35.42 billion tonnes are in proved category, 30.44 billion tonnes in indicated category and 6.35 billion tonnes in inferred category.

TRAI's concern over broadband connectivity

904. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the TRAI has expressed its concern over the low broadband connectivity in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action/steps taken by the Central Government to address this concern of the TRAI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) to (c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recently sent a communication to the Government recommending that Government should conduct a review of various provisions of Broadband Policy and should have reconsiderations on TRAI's earlier recommendations pertaining to Local Loop unbundling and fiscal incentives for Broadband. However, the suggestions made by TRAI are under examination.

The Government has recently announced reduction in licence fee for NLD/ILD service licensees from 1st January, 2006. This is expected to reduce cost of Broadband services and is expected to result in increase in Broadband subscribers.

Connecting villages through satellite phones

905. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to link over 14,000 inaccessible villages in remote areas of the country by the end of 2007 through satellite phones;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Government have earmarked Rs. 105.72 crore to be spent in the next two years for this; and

(c) if so, the number of identified villages in each State for this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 159 crore has been earmarked for this activity for the years 2005-06 and 2006-07.

(c) A statement indicating the number of identified villages in each State proposed to be connected via satellite media is given in the Statement.

Statement

Statement indicating the number of identified villages in each state to be connected via Satellite Media

Sl. No.	Name of the States	No. of villages
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	115
2.	Assam	279
3.	Chhattisgarh	88
4.	Himachal Pradesh	275
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	465
6.	Jharkhand	1,694
7.	Madhya Pradesh	443
8.	Maharashtra	496